

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 009722
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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INR/REA:WROPE (DRAFT)
S/S - PSBRIDGES

-----150418Z 051844 /64

P 150156Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 009722

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY ARTICLE ON CHOU: POSITION ON
TAIWAN

REF: A. HONG KONG 456, B. HONG KONG 484, C. HONG KONG
466

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES CONGEN'S ALERTNESS IN CALLING
JANUARY 11 FOREIGN MINISTRY ARTICLE ON CHOU EN-LAI'S
FOREIGN POLICY TO OUR ATTENTION (WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED
FULL TEXT TRANSLATION). OUR PRELIMINARY READING DOES NOT
SUPPORT CONCLUSION THAT ARTICLE'S REFERENCE TO CHINESE
NEGOTIATING POSITIONS ON TAIWAN DATING BACK TO THE MID-
1950'S MAY HINT AT SOME FLEXIBILITY IN PRC POSITION ON

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THIS QUESTION OR IS INTENDED TO CONVEY SIGNAL.
DEPARTMENT IS ,REPARING SPECIAL ANALYSIS WHIC; UILL OE
SENT YOU TELEGRAPHICALLY.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS THUS FAR REFRAINED FROM PUBLIC COMMENT
ON THE ARTICLE. QUESTIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN ASKED AT
NOON BRIEFING, BUT GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT'S

SPOKESMAN JANUARY 14 (UNUSED) CONSISTED OF FOLLOWING
STATEMENT: "WE ARE AWARE OF THE ARTICLE AND ARE STUDYING
IT BUT WE HAVE NO COMMENT."

3. IN VIEW OF PRESS SPECULATION THAT ARTICLE MAY BE
INTENDED AS SIGNAL, WE ARE DISTURBED BY CHARACTERIZATION
OF ARTICLE IN REFTEL C (WHICH RECEIVED WIDE DISTRIBUTION
TO FIELD POSTS). EA AND INR DO NOT AGREE WITH WEEKA
SUMMARY STATEMENT THAT ARTICLE "CALLS FOR NEGOTIATION WITH
THE US ON THE TAIWAN PROBLEM." WORDING OF FIRST SENTENCE
OF PARAGRAPH 8, WE FEEL, IMPLIES MISTAKENLY THAT EVEN
THOUGH PRC MAINTAINS THAT THE "LIBERATION" OF TAIWAN IS
AN INTERNAL PROBLEM, THE PRC HAS AFFIRMED ITS DESIRE TO
SETTLE "THIS ISSUE" (I.E. THE LIBERATION OF TAIWAN)
THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT ARTICLE MAKES CLEAR
THAT THE ISSUE THE PRC IS PREPARED TO SETTLE THROUGH
NEGOTIATIONS IS "THE DISPUTE ... ARISING FROM THE US
FORCIBLE OCCUPATION OF TAIWAN."

4. GIVEN OUR SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT READING OF THE ARTICLE,
WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR FURTHER COMMENT. IN ADDITION, IF
YOU AGREE WITH POINTS IN PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE, CONGEN MAY
WISH TO CONSIDER SENDING BRIEF CLARIFICATION TO ADDRESSEE
POSTS OF WEEKA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE009722
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JSROY:MFR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770015-0854
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770148/aaaabpsx.tel
Line Count: 89
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f3e4f2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 HONG KONG 456, 77 HONG KONG 484
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3587652
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTRY ARTICLE ON CHOU: POSITION ON TAIWAN
TAGS: PFOR, CH, US, (CHOU EN-LAI)
To: HONG KONG
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f3e4f2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009